



WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1943

N. BUDD (W'TON) LTD., PRINTERS.

TELEPHONE:

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of WEDNESFIELD.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1943.

The Birth-rate was 20.59 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death-rate was 10.62 per 1,000 of the population.

The Infant Mortality rate is 67.79 compared with 52.77 in 1942.

The Infant Mortality for England & Wales was 49.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector,

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

Medical Officer of Health W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector } L. G. HUMPHRIS, CERT. S.I.B.
Meat & Foods Inspector } M.R.SAN.I., C.R.S.I., (Meat & Foods)

Health Visitors ... Miss RICHARDS
Miss EASTWOOD

AREA	...	...	...	2,515 acres
POPULATION (estimated)			...	15,250
INHABITED HOUSES	...		...	4,266
RATEABLE VALUE	...		...	£59,647
GENERAL RATE	...		...	16/8
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE				£230

ADOPTION ACTS, &c.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, Act 1907, Part II (other than Sections 23, 24 and 27), III, IV, V, VI, and Section 95 comprised in Part X.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 21 and Part V.

As to parts of the District, the Council is invested with the powers granted to a Rural District Council by section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
187	3	159	5	346	8	20.59

STILLBIRTHS

8 - 6 1 14 1

DEATHS

MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	RATE PER 1000
86	76	162	10.62

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
11	-	13	-	24	-	67.79

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Sepsis - ONE

From other causes - ONE

INFANT MORTALITY during Year 1943.

Causes of Death	Total under one year	Under 1 day	1 to 7 days	7 to 14 days	14 to 28 days	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Prematurity	5	3	1	1					
Pneumonia	7						3	4	
Pyloric Stenosis	1					1			
Enteritis	4				1	1		2	
Marasmus	2					1		1	
Convulsions									
Congenital Malformation	2	1			1				
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1			1					
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1		1						
Asphyxia Livida	1	1							
TOTALS	24	5	2	2	2	3	3	7	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD U.D.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes.	68	70	88	70	99	60	82	63	86	76
	138		158		159		145		162	
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles										1
Scarlet Fever	1				1					
Whooping Cough		2			1		1			
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup			1	1	1	3	1		1	
Influenza		1	1				1	1	1	4
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever				1	1					1
Meningococcal Meningitis										
Syphilis				1	1			1		
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	5	3	5	4	7	3	8	3	2	
Other Forms		1	2		3		1			2
Cancer Malignant Disease	4	10	6	6	15	3	16	9	9	9
Aneurysm										
Diabetes	1	3		2				1		3
P.I. Tabes &c.										
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	2	10	8	7	10	5	4	8	6
Heart Disease	23	19	20	19	18	13	18	13	16	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	1				1		2		
Bronchitis		2	6	3	4	1	2		4	2
Pneumonia, all forms	3	2	9	4	8	9	4	6	7	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1		1	2	2				1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1		1		1		2			1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		1	2		1	1	1	1	2	3
Appendicitis	1	1			1		2	1	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Other Diseases of Liver, &c.		2								
Other digestive diseases		2	3	3	3	3	2	1	4	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2		2	1		1	3	2	3	5
Septicæmic Sepsis						1		1		1
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition		3		2				1		1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births	10	3	6	8	10	4	5	7	6	7
Road Accidents					4				1	
Suicide	1						1			
Other Deaths from Violence	4	2	3		6		3		3	
Other Defined Diseases	5	8	10	5	6	5	7	8	17	10
Causes ill defined or unknown										
Estimated Population	14,630		14,830		15,270		15,240		15,250	
Total Deaths	138		158		159		145		162	
Death Rate	9.43		.65		10.41		9.51		10.62	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Diphtheria swabs and other specimens are sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Stafford and to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Hospital for examination.

Ambulance Facilities

For the removal of infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the hospital authorities who take the patient.

Nursing in the Home

Wednesfield Nursing Association, an organisation supported by voluntary contributions, provides one nurse who gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases. When infectious cases are kept at home the mother of the patient usually acts as nurse, under the direction of the medical attendant.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Under the direction of the Staffordshire County Council a Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Well Lane. Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained free at this Centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Weekly.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Fortnightly.

Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre can be referred to an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and for orthopædic treatment and dental treatment under the County Council's schemes. Dental treatment is also provided for expectant and nursing mothers.

Dried milks and vitamins are stocked at the Food Office and retailed at reduced cost prices under the National Scheme.

From time to time lectures on mothercraft are given

Hospitals.

On October 1st 1941 the Joint Hospital Board opened Moxley Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease. This is a great improvement on our previous arrangements when we had to rely on outside Authorities to take our cases.

Smallpox

Provision is made under the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board.

Maternity

By arrangement with the County Council the Royal Hospital Wolverhampton will take difficult cases requiring hospital treatment.

Three Registered Midwives reside within the District.

Medical and Surgical

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, are all within easy distance.

Wordsley Hospital is also available for patients who cannot obtain accommodation elsewhere.

Sanitary Circumstances

Combined with this report is that of your Sanitary Inspector it has been found much more suitable to the setting out of the Reports to combine the two rather than separate them.

Water

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

SUMMARY

Notices served requiring repairs and abatement of Nuisances				89
Outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	7
Number of inspections—Housing		...	...	1876
Slaughterhouses and Offensive Trades		...	...	20
Other inspections—Nuisances etc.	...	...	...	478
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	37
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	64
Visits in case of infectious Disease			...	148
Disinfections	...	...	...	140
Disinfestations	...	...	...	15
Choked drains	...	...	...	340
Bedding etc. destroyed at owners request	...	...	...	4 lots

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	5
Number of other houses disinfested	...	...	10
Method used, Insecticide Spray			
Insecticide used " Clymax "			

Schools

There are now seven Public Elementary Schools within the District, all these have a satisfactory supply of water piped from the mains and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	850
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...				2245
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925					246
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...				335
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation				...	115

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	70
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	34
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—			
(a)	by Owners	...	...	30
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...		4

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	22
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—		
(a)	by Owners	...	22
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	—

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	—

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:—

- (a) 1 Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year —
- 2 Number of families dwelling therein ... —
- 3 Number of persons dwelling therein ... —
- b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... —
- (c) 1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... —
- 2 Number of persons concerned in such cases ... —

HOUSING ACT 1936

Progress under Slum Clearance Schemes.

Position according to registers at 21st December 1943.

Houses in Clearance Areas

Orchard Buildings	...	...	...	14
Rickyard	...	...	...	8
High Street	...	...	...	7
				<hr/> 29

Individual Unfit Houses

Number on Register	...	...	...	37
				<hr/> 66

Number of houses provided	...	...	...	30
Undertakings from owners accepted	...	...	...	9
Cases where re-housing has not been necessary	...	...	...	9
Number of houses required at 31st December 1942	...	...	...	18
				<hr/> 66

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

Seven licenses to slaughter and stun animals were granted during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS ADULTERATION, Etc.

Samples of Foods and Drugs are taken by the County Council for examination, they being the responsible Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Building development has taken its toll of the grazing land in the district, with the result that the number of Dairy Farms is now reduced to sixteen, these are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

DESIGNATED MILK

Eight Supplementary Licenses and two Dealers Licenses to sell Designated Milk within the District during the year, were issued all supplies being obtained from other districts. The grades for which licenses were granted were as follows :—

PASTEURISED	5
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TUBERCULIN TESTED	
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ACCREDITED	2
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CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified during 1943.

DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases admitted to Hospital
	Age Periods—Years.												
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	23		2	14	4	2	1						23
Erysipelas	6									3	3		
Scarlet Fever	77		18	38	15	5		1					15
Ophthalmia	4	4											2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10					1	1	3	3		2		
Other Forms	5		1	2		1						1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	6						2	4					6
Puerperal Fever													
Pneumonia	59		4	4	9	5	1	5	11	9	10	1	22
Whooping Cough	77	10	40	27									
Measles	245	35	65	100	45								
Totals	512	49	130	185	73	14	5	13	14	12	15	2	68

SMALLPOX. No case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER. 77 cases were notified compared with 111 in 1942. No death occurred.

DIPHTHERIA. 23 cases were noted throughout the year as against 37 in 1942. The cases were evenly distributed throughout the District. There was 1 death from the disease. 140 swabs from suspected cases were examined, 20 of these gave positive results, Immunisation against this disease is now available.

During the year 113 school children completed the course of immunisation.

190 children of pre-school age also completed the course.

ENTERIC FEVER. No case occurred.

MEASLES. 245 cases were notified. One death occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH 77 cases were notified. No death occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS. At the end of the year there remained on the register 93 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 54 males and 39 females, and 56 persons, 29 males and 27 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 149. From the following table it will be seen that 2 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 10 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 5 other forms. 6 of the pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

TUBERCULOSIS, New Cases and Mortality during 1943

Age Periods— Years.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 to 10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 to 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 20	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
20 to 25	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 to 35	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
35 to 45	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
45 to 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 to 65	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	5	2	3	2	...	...	2

The Sanatoria for the district are :—

For Males Prestwood Sanatorium and Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital

For Females, Groundslow and Yarnfield

For Children, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA no case occurred.

INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA. During the year 59 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 23 in 1942 and 14 in 1941. There were 11 deaths due to this cause against 10 in 1942. 5 deaths occurred from Influenza.

CANCER. 18 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 9 males and 9 females.

Ages and Parts Affected.

PARTS AFFECTED	20 — 30		30 — 40		40 — 50		50 — 60		60 — 70		70 —		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
BREAST	1...	...	...	...1..
LIVER	2...	...	...	...	1...	...	1...	...	...4...
RECTUM	1...	...	...	2..	...3..
STOMACH	1...	...	1...	...	1...	...	...3...
COLON	1...	...	...	...	...	...1...
LUNG	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...1...
PANCREAS	1...	...	...	...1...
FACE	1...	...1...
UTERUS	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...1...
BLADDER	1...	...	...	...1...
OVARY	1...	...	...	...	...	...1...
	3...	1...	1...	2...	3...	3...	2...	3...	...18...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED												DEATHS											
	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Anthrax	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Anthrax
1933	13	4	81	2	-	4	5	-	12	5	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	1	-
1934	14	1	96	1	-	9	3	-	15	4	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-
1935	32	3	44	6	-	18	1	-	12	2	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	1	-	-
1936	21	3	47	2	-	11	2	-	10	7	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-
1937	15	2	22	5	-	14	6	-	21	4	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	-
1938	27	5	46	5	-	7	3	-	19	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-
1939	10	4	35	6	-	12	3	1	14	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-
1940	8	2	16	2	-	23	1	-	11	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	-
1941	14	3	59	4	-	43	4	-	17	4	-	-	10	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	10	3	-	-
1942	23	3	111	7	-	37	3	-	17	1	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	1	-	-
1943	59	6	77	6	-	23	4	-	10	5	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-

